

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A cutting head for a brush cutter or edge trimmer, the cutting head comprising a plurality of discrete string-outlets channels through the cutting head for a plurality of cutting strings to pass through, each string channel defining a string outlet for exit of the respective cutting string from the cutting head, each string outlet having a height in an axial direction parallel to a rotation axis of the cutting head, wherein:

~~the axes of the cutting string outlets are distributed and configured such that center axes of the string outlets are distributed~~ in a plurality of ~~mutually spaced~~ planes (Pac, Pcb)[[, adjacent]] that are perpendicular to the rotation axis and are spaced apart in the axial direction, and such that any two of said planes are axially spaced from each other by a distance (H2) that is greater than or equal to approximately 1.8 times the height (H1) of each string outlet,

in each plane the respective string outlets are at the same level, and

in all planes the direction of rotation of the head is the same.

2. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 1, wherein ~~at least two adjacent planes (Pac, Pcb) are mutually spaced by a~~ the distance (H2) that is between approximately 1.8 times and approximately 5 times the height (H1) of each string outlet.

3. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 1, wherein the string outlets are located with respect to ~~in~~ the peripheral direction of the head[[],] such that the strings exiting in a first plane (Pac) are alternated with the strings exiting in a second plane (Pcb) adjacent to the first.

4. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 3, wherein the string outlets are located with respect to ~~in~~ the peripheral direction of the head[[],] such that the strings exit the head in a regularly distributed manner.

5. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 4, wherein the string outlets are located such that two string outlets are provided ~~existing~~ in a first plane (Pac) in diametrically opposed regions, and two string outlets are provided ~~existing~~ in a second plane (Pcb) adjacent to the first, in diametrically opposed regions, the string outlets being distributed approximately every 90° in the peripheral direction.

6. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 1, ~~wherein each~~ configured for use with cutting strings each of which has a ridge, and wherein the head comprises means for maintaining each string in an orientation such that ~~a cutting the~~ ridge of the string is in a position to lead the attack on plants.

7. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to Claim 6, ~~wherein each~~ configured for use with cutting strings each of which has a substantially square section and is oriented with two opposite ridges situated substantially in the plane (Pac, Pcb) containing the ~~axis of the~~ corresponding string outlet.

8. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, wherein the head is implemented by assembling parts of general disc shape defining string semi-channels opposite one another and suitable for together forming string channels concealed in the head.

9. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 8, wherein the spacing (H2) between the adjacent planes (Pac, Pcb) of the string outlets is defined by the thickness of an intermediate part comprising on one face semi-channels for the strings of an upper plane and on an opposite face semi-channels for the strings of a lower plane.

10–12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A cutting device for cutting brush or the like, comprising a cutting head and at least one cutting string, wherein the cutting head defines a plurality of discrete string channels

for passage of respective cutting strings therethrough, each string channel defining a string outlet from which the respective cutting string exits from the cutting head, wherein

each string outlet has a height in an axial direction of the cutting head corresponding substantially to a height (H1) of the cutting string in the axial direction,

the cutting string outlets are distributed and configured such that center axes of the string outlets are distributed in a plurality of planes (Pac, Pcb) that are spaced apart in the axial direction, and such that any two of said planes are spaced from each other by a distance (H2) that is greater than or equal to approximately 1.8 times the height (H1) of each string,

in each plane the respective string outlets are at the same level, and

in all planes the direction of rotation of the head is the same.